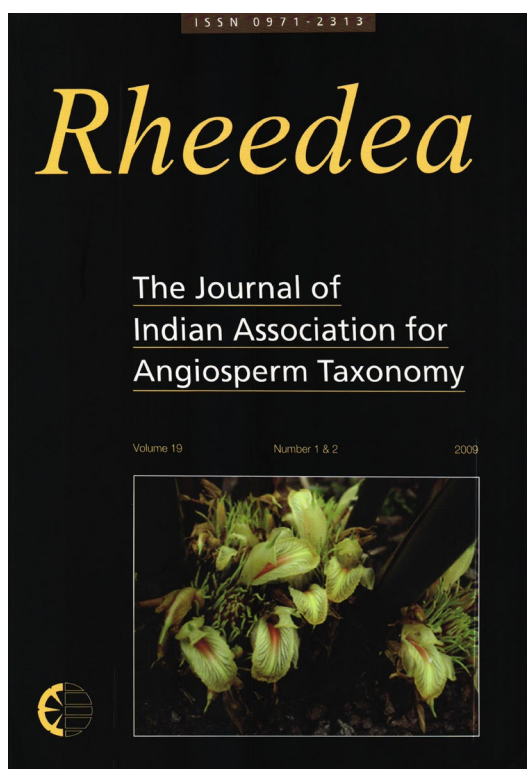




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On the collection of *Wissadula contracta* (Malvaceae) from Karnataka, India

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Abstract

Wissadula contracta (Link) R. E. Fr. - a malvaceous species (garden escape) is collected for the first time from Karnataka. Diagnostic description and illustration are provided.

Keywords: *Wissadula contracta*, Malvaceae, Karnataka, India

Introduction

The authors observed naturalized populations of *Wissadula* Medik. within the limits of Dharwad city in February 2006 in a dry and dehisced fruiting stage. Additional collections were made in October 2007, when the plants were in full bloom. Based on critical examination and reference to relevant taxonomic literature (Masters, 1874; Fryxell, 1988; Paul & Nayar, 1988; Paul, 1993), the species is identified as *Wissadula contracta* (Link) R. E. Fr. No reference to this species could be found in any of the regional floras including the revision on Malvaceae of Southern Peninsular India (Sivarajan & Pradeep, 1996). It is a cultivated species native of Tropical America (Paul, 1993) and must be a garden escape. A diagnostic description and illustration are provided in this paper.

Wissadula contracta (Link) R. E. Fr., Kongl. Svensk. Vetén. Handl. n.s. 43(4): 60. 1908; Fryxell, Syst. Bot. Monogr. 25: 453. 1988; T. K. Paul & M. P. Nayar in M. P. Nayar *et al.*, Fasc. Fl. India 19: 232. 1988; T. K. Paul in B. D. Sharma & Sanjappa, Fl. India 3: 394. 1993. *Sida contracta* Link, Enum. Hort. Berol. 2: 204. 1822. *S. leschenaultiana* DC., Prodr. 1: 468. 1824. *Abutilon leschenaultianum* (DC.) Sweet, Hort. Brit. ed. 2, : 64. 1830. *Wissadula leschenaultiana* (DC.) Mast. in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 1: 325. 1874. **Fig. 1**

Perennial undershrubs, 1 – 2.8 m high. Leaves broadly ovate, cordate, acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal racemose panicle. Flowers 10 – 14 mm across, white. Calyx persistent. Mericarps 2 – 6, c. 3 × 6 mm. Seeds 3 in each mericarp.

Flowering & Fruiting: October – February.

Habitat: Shady places.

Specimens Examined: INDIA, Karnataka, Dharwad District, Dharwad, Annigeri 050, 051, 055 (Herbarium of Karnatak College, Dharwad).

Acknowledgments

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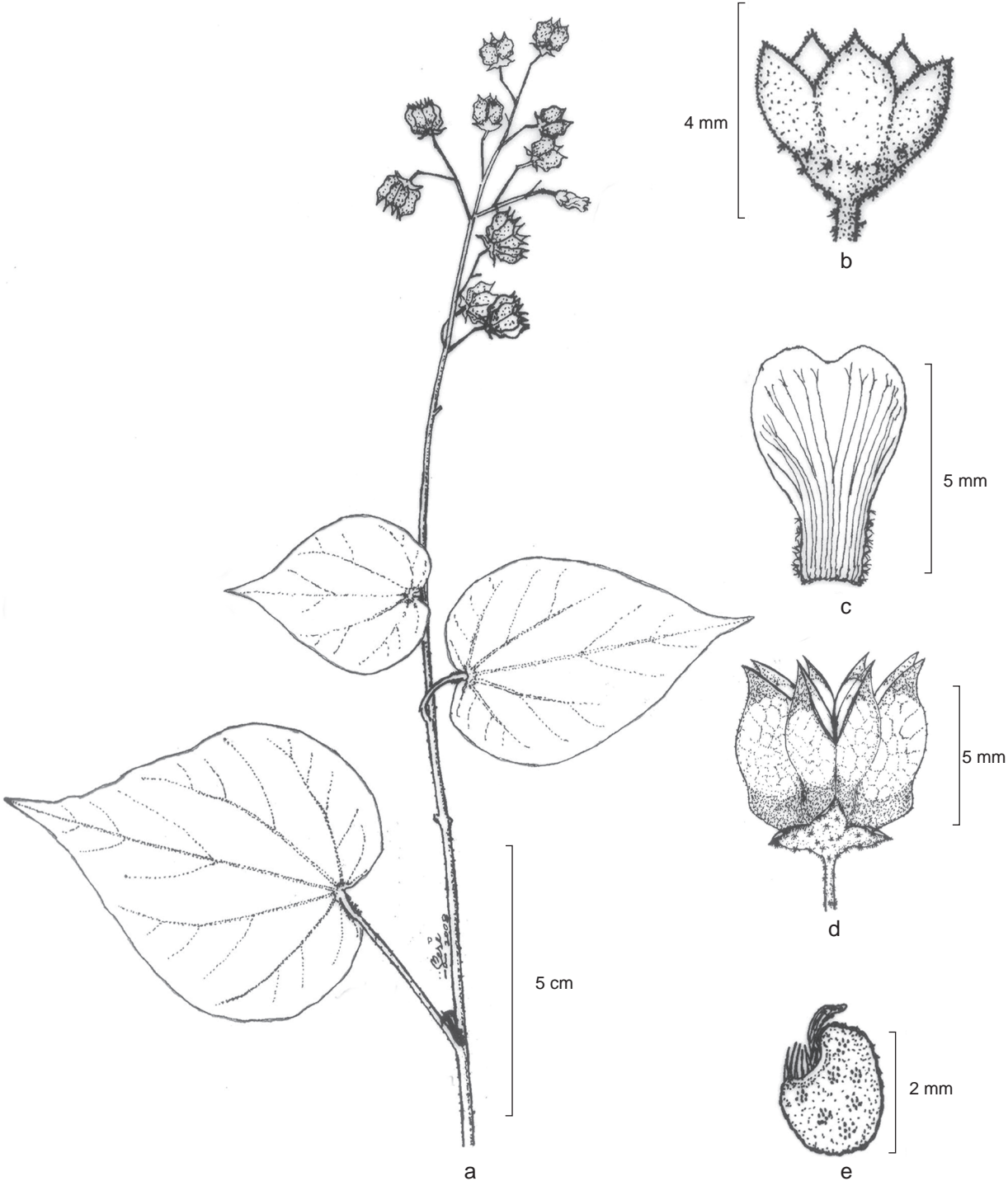


Figure 1. *Wissadula contracta* (Link) R. E. Fr.: a. Fruiting twig; b. Calyx; c. Petals showing stellate hairs at base; d. Fruit with persistent calyx; e. Seed. (Drawn by B. G. Annigeri)